(b) and (c) The State Governments have initiated the process of implementation of the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 i.e. constitution of State Advisory Committees, Experts Committee to formulate Rules, State Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Boards and notification of authorities etc. for the implementation of the Act.

The Government has constituted the Central Advisory Committee.

Salient Features of Proposed Labour Legislation

1352. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is proposed to enact shortly a new legislation on contract labour;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and some of the salient features of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether the proposed law would be placed in Parliament during its Monsoon Session; and

(d) whether adequate provisions for safety net for contract labour would be provided in the revised Bill and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) In the wake of economic liberalization as well as judgements of various courts, proposals have been received from social partners to bring about changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The changes or amendments to be made, if any, after taking into consideration all relevant factors, have not yet been finalised.

Torture of Minor Domestic Servants

1353. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incident of violence and torture of minor domestic servants in the city have been on the rise;

(b) if so, whether Government have critically reviewed the Child Labour Preventive Act, 1986 to identify the weaknesses in dealing with the problems and to provide it more teeth to effectively prevent such incidents throughout the country; and

(c) if so, what measures are contemplated by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi, the Labour Department enforces labour laws in factories, shops, and commercial establishments and therefore, employment of domestic servants does not come within the jurisdiction of Labour Department.

The issue regarding amendment of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 to make it more stringent and effective, was discussed in the State Labour Ministers' Conference held in July, 1997. Important suggestions made in the Conference to make the Act more stringent include (i) making the offence a cognizable one; (ii) making the penalities more stringent and deterrent; and (iii) the responsibility as to the proof of age of a child being made that of the employer. Action has already been initiated in this regard.

Amendment of Payment of Bonus Act

1354. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to amend the Payment of Bonus Act to enlarge the coverage and ceiling limit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The proposal to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 so as to raise the eligibility limit and calculation ceiling is under consideration of the Government.

Displacement of Labour

1355. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread belief as was expressed by Director General of ILO in the UNCTAD Conference held in Bangkok that the re-structuring of Industries as part of globalisation and liberalisation is leading to large scale displacement of labour, particulary, in the developing countries;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereon;

(c) whether Government are planning any comprehensive social security legislation in the light of this; and